SUMMARY OF PUBLIC CONSULTATION

TO:

BACKGROUND INFORMATION AND OPTIONAL MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES

NAPANEE DISTRICT FISHERIES MANAGEMENT PLAN

90-02074/

"The decisions that will result from this planning exercise will influence all those interested in the fisheries resource, not just anglers or commercial fishermen but cottage owners, building contractors, municipal authorities, the agricultural community, tourist establishments, marinas, sporting good retailers, and others .....

.....the ideas within this document are meant to stimulate public discussion and input .... should you have a viewpoint express your views..... do not rely on someone else to do it for you".

From: Background Information and Optional Strategies
Napanee District Fisheries Plan
April 1988

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Page

Introduction 1

Summary of Public Meetings 3

Summary of Questionnaire Responses 5

Additional Correspondence 8

Summary 8

APPENDICES

I Initial Letter Soliciting Public Comment (25.08.86) 10

II Preliminary Comments on the Fisheries Planning Process 11

III Summary of Public Consultation Papers 13

INTRODUCTION

The Ministry of Natural Resources is committed to public consultation. Through it, the Ministry receives innovative ideas which can lead to more effective and efficient resource management. Moreover, public consultation can lead to decisions which resolve contentious problems and issues.

During the early stages, when background information was being prepared, an initial contact was established with key user groups within the District. A letter introducing the fisheries planning process was mailed to 139 stakeholders in the resource for their thoughts about the Napanee District fishery (appendix 1). Of the 10 replies received, 3 made comments pertaining to the planning process (appendix 2). These comments were then considered during the preparation of the Background Information and Optional Strategies; Napanee District. (April 1988).

Upon completion of this document and in accord with the preparation of the plan, a strategy for further public review and input was implemented. This included:

1) the completion of a more extensive mailing list to 186 key user and interest groups with inclusion of public consultation papers and notification of public meetings.

2) the placement of Summary Documents and Consultation Papers in all major Public Libraries throughout the District.

3) the posting of public notices for upcoming meetings at local licence issuing outlets.

4) the printing of public notices in 18 local newspapers.

5) public advisories were given over 3 local radio stations prior to the meeting and,

6) the hosting of public meetings in Kingston and Belleville on April 26 and 27, 1988.

Through this process, approximately 500 consultation papers were distributed to interest groups and the general public. The meeting in Kingston on April 26 had an attendance of 100 citizens, while the Belleville meeting had 62. A total of 30 responses with completed questionnaires were returned to the District office. The summary of public input has been evaluated in three forms: 1) questions and comments received during the two public meetings; 2) a summary of questionnaire responses; and 3) additional correspondence and comments above and beyond the issues raised in the questionnaires.

..... 3

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC MEETINGS

The following is a summary of comments/suggestions made during our public meetings.

Comment/Recommendation	MNR Evaluation
1. Due to the amount of pre-season bass fishing in the Wolfe Island area institute seasonal sanctuaries which would prohibit all fishing.	Just as pre-season bass fishing requires enforcement reinforced with public compliance, sanctuaries would involve much the same. The loss of fishing opportunities for other species such as pan fish, bull-heads, northern pike, etc. would restrict use of these under-utilized species. Bass are prolific and should overcome these short term losses. Over the longer term, sanctuaries will be considered only in special cases.
2. Re-open the winter ice-fishing season for lake trout on in-land lakes.	Existing regulations will remain in effect until a provincial regulatory review committee completes its deliber-ations. All of the management strategies will be reviewed on an on-going basis.
3. Open the S.M. Bass season later to offset declining populations.	Bass year-class strength is strongly dependent on spawning weather condi-tions. In cool weather bass may not spawn out until late July. Bass have an ability to come back with strong year classes in good years. Little would be gained in having only one or two months as an effective bass season and considerable loss of angling opportunities could result.
4. MNR must work more closely with interest groups.	It is hoped through exercises such as this, that we can further improve communication links with the public.
5. Do not implement a slot-size and creel limit for lake trout in Lake Ontario until after chinook salmon have been introduced and established.	Both issues here (lake trout management and salmon stocking) are resolved at the Lake Ontario Management Committee level. The recommendation will be put forward to them for resolution before inclusion into the draft plan.

Comment/Recommendation	MNR Evaluation
6. MNR should encourage greater public participation in the planning process.	MNR is quite pleased with the response from the concerned public. Further information items will encourage greater participation in upcoming meetings.
7. A total ban on gillnets should be implemented. Incidental catch is not just a seasonal problem.	The Minister's 1988.03.30 news release on incidental catch demonstrates the Ministry's committment to dealing effectively with this problem.
8. What is MNR's position re: stocking Atlantics and chinooks?	A planning exercise for the whole of Lake Ontario is presently under way. This plan will identify salmon stocking strategies as they pertain to the Napanee and remaining Districts around Lake Ontario. The strategies identified in the Napanee Plan recommend a diversity of salmon fishing opportunities that will have to be endorsed by the Lake Ontario Committee.
9. Black crappie should be regarded as a game fish.	Crappie are valuable to the commercial fishery yet under-exploited by sports anglers, in most waters. If angler interest increases to the point of significantly impacting this species, then special regulations such as daily limits can be incorporated for protection.
10. Is the use of hybrid lake trout not a cause of concern for predation/competition on native walleye populations?	More often, the opposite is true for walleye predation on stocked trout. Some local lakes may have lost native trout populations due in part to walleye introductions. No trout stocking programs in walleye lakes give any indication that there is cause for concern.
11. Enough attention has been given to walleye and trout; what about management efforts for pike and bass?	A good point. It is only by hearing such comments that we realize public interest does lie elsewhere. Future fisheries management efforts will consider a wide range of sport fish species.

..... 5

12. Should cormorant numbers be controlled on the Great Lakes?	Estimates place the consumption of small fish by cormorants as equal to the commercial harvest of all species. It may very well be an important factor, but is presently outside the scope of this exercise.
13. Comments supporting the commercial fishing industry in Eastern Lake Ontario.	The ministry is committed to providing an optimum mix of social and economic benefits for both the sport and commercial fisheries, based on sound management rationale.

SUMMARY OF QUESTIONNAIRE RESPONSES

Over 500 questionnaires were distributed during our initial consultation phase. Just under 200 were mailed with the remainder being given out during two April meetings, to other interested persons who visited the office, or those who made telephone enquiries about our planning exercise. Thirty questionnaires were returned to the District office. The summary of public opinion is documented in Appendix 3. The results show an overwhelming support for most strategies and tactics presented as options during this consultative phase. Those optional tactics which illustrated either public opposition (a rate of disagreement of 20% or more) or no clear consensus, are listed below:

	Percent Disagreement
- maintaining a winter closure on inland lake trout lakes	20
- reduce the existing lake trout creel to 2 per day	20
- increase the take of hybrid trout (splake) to 5 per day	23
- reduce the winter walleye season	46

..... 6

- implement a size limit on walleye (inland) 20
- reduce the commercial fish quota of yellow perch 23
- encourage a self-policing program in the commercial fishery 23
- extending the closed season for walleye in the Bay of Quinte by one more week 43
- introduce a slot size limit for lake trout in Lake Ontario 26
- encourage fishing derbies for rainbow trout (inland) 50
- discontinue trout stocking where angling use is low 26
- develop a trophy fishery for brook trout in Frontenac Park 26
- establish a fly-fishing only area on Cold Creek 23
- promoting private acquisition and development at access points 30
- increase the allocation of whitefish to the commercial fishery 46
- provide a small quota of walleye in the Bay of Quinte to the commercial fishery 73
- encourage baitfish harvest from Lake Ontario and the St. Lawrence River 40
- allocate the incidental catch of walleye, lake trout, northern pike, etc. to the commercial fishery 66
- utilize existing salmon/trout stocks in Lake Ontario without increased stocking 33
- increase MNR lake trout stocking 26

The remaining strategies and tactics showed overall support for implementation.

For those who had a special interest in Lake Ontario a specific questionnaire was provided for their response. The following problems were

..... 7

identified as the most significant to the management of the Lake Ontario fishery (in order of priority); contaminants, illegal harvest, habitat protection, habitat restoration and access.

While 68% of the respondants felt the fishing was "good to excellent" they were divided as to whether all the problems and issues had been identified in the plan or that strategies and tactics were complete enough. Some comments incuded:

> "over exploitation of pickerel in the Bay of Quinte through T.V. shows, sport magazine articles and derbies".
>
> "the total MNR sport fish budget is too small".
>
> "there could be less stocking of lake trout in Lake Ontario and more in the back lakes".
>
> "the gillnet problem is not properly addressed in the questionnaire".

Of the 28 responses to the Lake Ontario questionnaire (consultation paper #16) 23 identified their preference for cold and/or warmwater species. Eleven or 48% selected chinook salmon as their preferred coldwater species. This was followed by rainbow and brown trout as 2nd and 3rd choices.

The majority of anglers selected walleye as their preferred warmwater

species with 65% expressing preference. This was then followed by smallmouth bass and northern pike.

A complete summary of the responses is enclosed in Appendix 3. Should a more detailed review be sought the original questionnaires may be reviewed at the Napanee District by appointment.

ADDITIONAL CORRESPONDENCE

In addition to the questionnaires some individuals and responding agencies took it upon themselves to elaborate their views/comments in a formal letter. These responses came from Conservation Authorities, municipalities, charter boat operators, tourist operators, Environment Canada, the Public Advisory Committee to the Bay of Quinte Remedial Action Plan (RAP), the Central Lake Ontario Sport Anglers, and the Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters, to just name a few. A total of 16 pieces of correspondence relating to the planning exercise are on file.

SUMMARY

Upon completing a detailed review of input received during the initial phase of our planning process it can be said that there is wide ranging support for the majority of stategies and tactics outlined in the Background Information and Optional Strategies document. The highest

..... 9

percentage of disagreement with tactics, usually arises with those tactics which directly impact resource harvest. While it is evident that the resource must be protected first and foremost, users do not see themselves as a prominent threat, or feel that other compensatory management efforts can overcome the problem of a limited resource.

As we proceed with the preparation of the Draft Fisheries Management Plan (which will receive also public review as well) the information provided by the public has been valuable. While it can be argued that not all issues are equally important, there are those that certainly threaten the resource, or may hinder use. Effective strategies and tactics which are practical, technically and financially feasible will receive a higher priority in the Draft Plan. Those issues which are not directly the mandate of the Ministry of Natural Resources, or require changing social attitudes (while not threatening a resource) will receive less attention. The Draft Fisheries Management Plan for the Napanee District (in preparation) will identify the progress we hope to achieve by the year 2000.

..... 10

August 25, 1986

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

The Napanee District of the Ministry of Natural Resources is initiating a fisheries management planning process which will identify broad objectives for the long-term future of the fishery resources in this area.

The principle objective of the plan is to protect, rehabilitate, enhance and maintain Ontario fish communities and their habitats for the purpose of providing a reasonable contribution of fish, angling opportunities and the associated benefits to the public.

The fisheries management plan will provide the best opportunity for the public to present an organized input into the process of identifying their needs and wants. For the public, the plan will set out how the resource is to be managed and for managers, it will set out the approved long-term resources management direction towards which they will work.

While public information sessions will be held later in the year to discuss problems and resource limitations on a lake specific basis, we would like to solicit the input of interest groups such as yourselves, early in the planning process. Attached are several example issues for your consideration. We would appreciate a written response from your organization identifying the concerns and wishes you may have.

Should you have any concerns or questions regarding the planning process please contact Alex Palilionis at this office. You will be advised of future developments and public information sessions as we progress.

Yours truly,

R. W. Beecher
District Manager
Ministry of Natural Resources
Napanee District
1 Richmond Blvd.
NAPANEE, Ontario
K7R 3S3

Telephone: 613-354-2173

APPENDIX 2

Preliminary Comments on the Fisheries Planning Process; Napanee District

	Interest Groups	Date Received	Comments
1.	Township of Thurlow	07/09/86	- acknowledgement
2.	Thirty Island Lake Association	09/09/86	- general comments
3.	Town of Napanee	09/09/86	- acknowledgement
4.	County of Lennox and Addington	25/09/86	- acknowledgement
5.	County of Prince Edward	08/10/86	- acknowledgement
6.	Township of Amherst Isand	10/10/86	- acknowledgement with the enclosure of a letter from a commercial fisherman (Mr. Welbanks) which supported rehabilitation of Lake Ontario, expressed concern with the imbalance between predators and prey and the presence of contaminants
7.	Dog Lake Cottagers Association	14/10/86	- made the following comments: . reduce daily limits on game fish . implement an aggregate creel of 4 for pike, walleye, bass and 3 for all trout . reduce non-resident creels . the only species to be managed as a trophy should be muskellunge . encourage greater use of panfish . self-sustaining, native populations should be protected while stocking should take place in lakes with extinct species or suitable habitat . regulate fishing derbies . restrict large boats and shoreline attractions
8.	Oakbrooke Cottagers Association (Bob's Lake)	30/10/86	- reduce daily creels/adopt aggregate creels . restrict derbies . promote "catch and release" fishing . control dredge and fill

Interest Groups	Date Received	Comments
9. County of Northumberland	29/10/86	- concern over lack of access to Lake Ontario . want salmon stocking with reduced fish control in Trent River . concern over water level fluctuation in the Trent . suggested "catch and release" fishing on coldwater streams
10. Village of Wellington	23/09/86	- requested support for opening of the Wellington Channel

Note: The mailout was forwarded to 51 municipal offices, 15 game and fish clubs, 25 rate payers or cottage associations, 4 naturalist groups, the commercail fishing industry, 41 tourist operators and 2 tourist associations, for a total of 139.

Public Consultation Paper No. 4 April 1988

QUESTIONNAIRE

The following proposals are a wide ranging set of possible actions—your comments will help us select which ones will be included in the draft fisheries plan. Please note that a complete listing is contained in the full background report available at some libraries and MNR offices.

Identify areas of significant fish habitat such as spawning and nursery areas by:	Agree	Disagree	No Comment
- implementing a habitat evaluation program to locate and map important spawning and nursery areas so protection can be undertaken	28	1	.
Inform the general public and other government agencies of fish habitat concerns by:	**Agree**	**Disagree**	**No Comment**
- developing static and audio/visual presentations for public viewing	22	3	5
- commenting to municipal agencies so their official plans reflect MNR concerns	29	1	.
- improving cooperation with Conservation Authorities, the Ministries of Transportation, Agriculture and Food, and Environment Canada (Parks) to ensure their activities consider fish habitat protection	29	.	1
Protect significant fish habitat by:	**Agree**	**Disagree**	**No Comment**
- enforcing the pertinent fish habitat protection legislation such as the Fisheries Act, Canada	29	.	1
- ensuring adherence to the shoreline development guidelines for lake trout lakes, developed jointly by MNR and MOE	27	.	3
- seeking public assistance in the identification of illegal activities and fish kills	30	.	.
- conducting aerial reconnaissance flights to locate dredge and fill activity	28	2	.
- continuing to inform the public and contractors of MNR's requirement for approval before proceeding with work along shorelines or in the water	29	.	1
- increasing habitat enforcement work by Conservation Officers	28	.	1
- cooperating with MOE and other agencies in investigating fish kills or habitat alterations	29	.	1
Rehabilitate important fish habitat areas to increase natural reproduction by:	**Agree**	**Disagree**	**No Comment**
- continuing to identify important areas requiring rehabilitation	29	.	1
- encouraging local Community Fisheries Involvement Program (CFIP) habitat rehabilitation projects	28	.	2
- creating new lake trout and walleye spawning shoals in certain inland lakes and rivers	28	2	.
- improving existing lake trout and walleye spawning shoals in certain inland lakes and rivers	30	.	.
- reclaiming certain coldwater lakes where the introduction of species such as perch has impacted on brook trout populations	23	2	5
- improving instream habitat in some coldwater brown, rainbow and brook trout streams	26	.	4
- encouraging shoreline development, agricultural and water level management practices which will improve fisheries-related water quality in some inland lakes	28	.	2

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	Agree	Disagree	No Comment
Monitor contaminant levels in fish, by:			
- instituting contaminant testing programs for sport and commercial fish in areas of special concern in cooperation with MOE and Fisheries and Oceans, Canada	29	.	1
Provide information concerning contaminants, by:	Agree	Disagree	No Comment
- advising the public and distributing the Guide to Eating Ontario Sport Fish	27	.	3
Maintain or improve fisheries-related water quality on lakes or streams that show problems of nutrient enrichment and/or habitat degradation, by:	Agree	Disagree	No Comment
- working with other government agencies to encourage the improvement of surface water quality	28	.	2
- encouraging municipalities to implement appropriate setbacks for shoreline development to protect sensitive shallow-water habitats	28	1	2
- making landowners knowledgeable of the concerns associated with the application of fertilizers, aquatic herbicides, manure storage and application, and boating activity in shallow water spawning and nursery areas	30	.	1
- continuing to review applications for mechanical and chemical weed control to protect sensitive fish habitat	26	1	3
- encouraging high flushing rates on lakes where control structures exist to improve water quality	27	1	2
Evaluate the impact that dams have on fish production by:	Agree	Disagree	No Comment
- implementing an inventory program to locate and assess the impact of all dams	23	3	4
Reduce the impacts on fish habitat resulting from the operation and maintenance of dams by:	Agree	Disagree	No Comment
- developing guidelines for the operation and maintenance of dams on lake trout lakes, trout streams, walleye spawning areas and bass and pike spawning areas	29	.	1
- providing those guidelines to dam operators and owners	29	.	1
- ensuring that no unnecessary habitat or fish losses occur as a result of water control operations	27	.	3
Evaluate the impact irrigation has on coldwater trout streams by:	Agree	Disagree	No Comment
- seeking MOE and OMAF assistance in developing a policy to mitigate the impacts of irrigation on coldwater streams	22	.	8
Discourage headwater impoundments which lack substantial flows during low flow periods by:	Agree	Disagree	No Comment
- reviewing and commenting on dam proposals	25	1	4
Evaluate groundwater use and the impacts on coldwater fisheries by:	Agree	Disagree	No Comment
- ensuring that MOE is aware of MNR concerns through their approval process for municipal water supplies	25	.	5
- encouraging appropriate agencies to ration water during low flow periods rather than continue lawn and garden watering	25	.	5
- encouraging municipalities to seek alternative water supplies particularly for industrial park development	26	.	4

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	Agree	Disagree	No Comment
A public consultation exercise in 1986 addressed the protection of eastern Ontario's lake trout populations. The actions selected as a result of that process are being retained.			
- maintain winter season closures	23	6	1
- initiate a voluntary moratorium on inland lake trout derbies	28	.	2
- implement a creel reduction to two trout per day	23	6	1
- ban the use of herring as a baitfish	22	3	5
- increase the creel to five splake per day and the use of one line only on designated splake lakes	17	7	5
Protect and rehabilitate depleted walleye stocks on inland waters, by:	Agree	Disagree	No Comment
- reducing the creel limit to four walleye per angler per day	27	3	5
- reducing the season to open the 3rd Saturday in May to November 30th, re-opening February 1st to March 15th	13	14	3
- implementing slot size limits requiring the release of fish between 35 and 50 cm in length	18	6	5
Stock walleye to maintain or rehabilitate populations, by:	Agree	Disagree	No Comment
- stocking pond-reared fingerlings in a few selected lakes on an annual basis	21	5	4
- implementing a rotational stocking schedule on all inland walleye lakes (stock some lakes, some years)	25	1	4
Stock lake trout in Desert, Buck (South), and Big Clear Lakes to maintain or rehabilitate populations, by:	Agree	Disagree	No Comment
- raising brood stock with similar genetic traits for stocking in their native waters	27	.	3
Ensure the commercial harvest of yellow perch does not exceed the allowable yield in eastern Lake Ontario, by:	Agree	Disagree	No Comment
- reducing the total commercial fish quota of yellow perch	16	7	7
- supporting a self-policing program for monitoring the undersized perch harvest	16	7	7
- setting a minimum total length of 7½" for yellow perch with the ultimate objective of moving toward an 8" minimum size limit	23	1	6
- prosecuting violators of the 2¼" minimum mesh size restriction	25	.	5
Ensure the harvest of bullheads and eels does not exceed the allowable yield, by:	Agree	Disagree	No Comment
- reducing commercial quotas to allowable yield levels	18	7	5
- establishing more accurate population status data using the Lake Ontario Fisheries Unit	24	1	5
- encouraging self monitoring by commercial fishermen	15	9	6

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Protect the Lake Ontario/Bay of Quinte walleye population from future over-harvest, by:	Agree	Disagree	No Comment
- continuing with the prohibition of commercial harvest of walleye	25	2	3
- continuing with season closures in March and April	25	.	4
- considering the implementation of slot limits during the month of May to protect fish still concentrated after spawning	18	5	7
- encouraging live release of both immature and mature walleye	25	2	3
- considering extending the closed season to the second Saturday in May	13	13	4
- considering the use or extension of temporary sanctuaries	22	3	4
Ensure that sport fishing for lake trout in Lake Ontario does not exceed the lake's capability to sustain the trout population, by:	Agree	Disagree	No Comment
- introducing a protected slot limit during the open season with lake trout having a total length of 63 to 76 cm (25" - 30") to be released	12	8	9

Please return to:

Ministry of Natural Resources
1 Richmond Blvd.
Napanee, Ontario
K7R 3S3

Name: _____

Address: _____

_____ Postal Code _____

(Note: All comments are public information. Your name and address are not public information, but will be used by the MNR to respond to you, where appropriate.)

If you would like information mailed to you about the draft fisheries plan when it becomes available, please check here ____

QUESTIONNAIRE

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The protection of naturally reproducing fish populations could be achieved by a combination of the following actions:	Agree	Disagree	No Comment
- encourage the public to report infractions	28	1	1
- conduct uniformed and plainclothed patrols	30	.	.
- continue to work with other enforcement agencies	29	.	1
- increase enforcement effort on spring and fall spawning runs	30	.	.
- increase enforcement effort on pre-season bass angling and rainbow trout runs	29	.	1
- initiate an educational program in schools to address poaching by young offenders	27	1	2
The control of angler-harvest could be achieved by:	Agree	Disagree	No Comment
- increasing the flow of information on fishing regulations to the media	28	1	1
- conducting uniformed and plainclothed patrols to reduce out-of-season angling, overlimits and snagging	30	.	.
- enforcing special legislation that deals with new experimental management initiatives	24	1	5
- encouraging the Report-a-Poacher program	29	.	1
To prevent introductions of fish species which could adversely affect native fish populations, we could:	Agree	Disagree	No Comment
- increase public awareness of the problems caused by the transfer of unwanted fish species to other water bodies	30	.	.
- inspect baitfish dealers, harvesters and anglers to ensure compliance	29	.	1
- inspect and audit aquaculture facilities	22	1	7
- enforce prohibitions related to the possession of live baitfish on specific waters	29	.	1
To improve communications with the public on enforcement issues, we could:	Agree	Disagree	No Comment
- inform the public of our enforcement priorities	24	2	4
- announce major enforcement programs aimed at specific problems	25	2	3
- issue media releases on the number and type of offences, and penalties as a deterrent	28	.	2
- issue seasonal reminders about season closures, habitat protection, fish sanctuaries and fish hut removal dates	27	2	1
- become involved in shows or exhibits where an enforcement message can be delivered	26	1	3
- emphasize public education as an integral part of the enforcement effort to reduce user conflicts	26	.	3

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To control the illegal commercialization of fishery resources, we could:	Agree	Disagree	No Comment
- collect intelligence information on illegal marketing and markets	28	.	2
- conduct patrols when fish are vulnerable (eg. in spawning runs), and when in-season and out-of-season species are closely associated	29	.	1
- educate public on the need to reduce illegal commercialization	27	1	2

To monitor existing commercial fisheries to ensure that quotas are adhered to, and to ensure that prohibited species are not sold, we could:	Agree	Disagree	No Comment
- conduct highly visible uniformed patrols on the water and at landings to check for compliance	26	1	3
- continue to check local fish buyers for regulatory compliance	28	.	2
- continue to support the industry-MNR self-policing program to improve the size and quality of commercially harvested yellow perch	20	4	6
- increase MNR's knowledge of illegal fish transport and marketing in local, Toronto and export markets	26	.	4
- collect information to verify quota levels, and prevent sale of prohibited and contaminated species	27	.	3
- utilize the computerized Commercial Fish Harvest Control System to verify fulfillment of licence conditions	28	2	5

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Inform the public on fisheries management issues and decisions, by:	Agree	Disagree	No Comment
- encouraging information transfer and maintaining an updated mailing list of all stakeholders	25	1	4
- developing a/v packages to address specific issues	22	1	7
- developing issue-oriented publications, news releases and fact sheets	24	2	4
- implementing Fisheries Information Seminars	24	3	3
- seeking more complete media coverage of fisheries issues	28	1	1
Improve the public's awareness on the rehabilitation of Lake Ontario's fisheries, by:	Agree	Disagree	No Comment
- developing a publication and audio-visual package on the rehabilitation program	23	2	5
- seeking more media coverage in the rehabilitation program	25	2	3
Encourage more public input to the fisheries management decision-making process, by:	Agree	Disagree	No Comment
- supporting the development of local fisheries advisory councils	26	1	3
- continuing to directly involve the public in the decision-making process	27	1	2
Encourage resource stewardship, by:	Agree	Disagree	No Comment
- encouraging the inclusion of fisheries management material in local school curricula	26	.	4
- delivering fisheries information at Provincial Parks	24	1	5
- performing lectures at local schools	26	2	2
- encouraging the CFIP program	23	1	6
Good communications are a part of many of the other fisheries management issues described in this series of Public Consultation Papers.	Agree	Disagree	No Comment
Additional actions are included in the following papers:			
Preventing Fish Habitat Loss—Public Consultation Paper No. 4			
- improve communications with shoreline owners and developers, user groups and other agencies to inform them why and how to protect and rehabilitate fish habitat and related water quality	28	.	2
Fisheries Enforcement, Public Consultation Paper No. 6			
- improve communications with user groups and the general public to increase compliance with fishing and habitat protection regulations	29	.	1
Tourism Opportunities and Fisheries Management, Public Consultation Paper No. 8			
- encourage the development of tourism-based fisheries initiatives by making user-groups aware of potential initiatives they might undertake	20	2	8
- make information available to tourists and tourism groups on good fishing techniques and locations	19	4	7

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Increasing the Number and Diversity of Fishing Opportunities (Inland Waters), Public Consultation Paper No. 11

- increase public awareness on the problem of introducing harmful species such as smelt and perch to inland lakes	27	.	3
- increase public awareness and feedback to managers on fish stocking, its impacts and uses	26	.	4
- inform the various user groups regarding the potential sport and commercial fishery value of under-harvested species of panfish and coarse fish	25	1	4

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As part of long-term fisheries management programs, enhance fishing opportunities for tourists, by:	Agree	Disagree	No Comment
- encouraging the establishment of groups representing municipal and business interests	19	3	8
- encouraging interest groups to address the tourism requirements for public access, alternative fisheries, fishing derbies and the allocation of fisheries	25	2	3
- liaise with other agencies which can promote the recreational value of fishing	23	1	6
- encourage the development of economic studies to evaluate the economic value of present fisheries and their potential to support further economic development and activity	24	1	5

Encourage Chambers of Commerce, Sport Fishing Committees, Tourist and Business Associations, Fish and Game Clubs and Cottage Associations to become involved in the MNR decision-making process, by:	Agree	Disagree	No Comment
- encouraging the development of advisory committees with representation by various interest and business groups	24	1	5
- continuing to involve the public directly in the decision-making process	26	1	3

Develop a diversity of angling opportunities for a variety of species, by:	Agree	Disagree	No Comment
- expanding or initiating new stocking programs consistent with the protection of native fish populations	29	.	1
- using new management techniques to improve the quality of fishing such as size limits, fly-fishing only areas, aggregate creels and catch and release fishing	27	.	3

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QUESTIONNAIRE

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Continue to determine the status of and trends in fish communities to identify emerging population declines or increases:	Agree	Disagree	No Comment
In inland lakes			
- monitor status of important walleye, lake trout, northern pike, bass and muskellunge populations in key lakes	28	.	1
- monitor status of coldwater stream populations of brook trout, rainbow trout and brown trout	24	.	5
- assess the native spawning lake trout and walleye populations	27	.	2
- determine the impact of predation on lake trout fry survival	24	1	4
In Lake Ontario, Bay of Quinte and St. Lawrence River	Agree	Disagree	No Comment
- continue to monitor trends in the walleye, trout, salmon, whitefish, herring populations and warmwater communities	25	.	3
- assess the status of the prey species (smelt, alewife) and determine their importance to the predator species	23	.	6
- determine effects of predation on the survival of lake trout, walleye and whitefish eggs, fry and fingerlings	22	1	6
- develop a model to predict year-class trends for key species	21	1	7
Assess habitat and water quality factors which affect the production of key species:	Agree	Disagree	No Comment
In inland waters			
- evaluate the importance of near-shore waters as spawning and nursery habitat for key species in selected waters	26	.	3
- monitor the impact of nutrient enrichment on near-shore spawning and nursery areas	26	.	3
- determine the relative importance of near-shore and open-water spawning areas for lake trout, and, river versus shoreline spawning areas for walleye	23	1	4
- determine status of certain waters using the Aquatic Habitat Inventory Program	18	.	12
In Lake Ontario, Bay of Quinte, St. Lawrence River	Agree	Disagree	No Comment
- evaluate the importance of near-shore waters as spawning and nursery habitat for key species	23	.	6
- conduct lake trout spawning shoal assessments	22	.	7
- determine the key habitat requirements for lake whitefish	19	1	9
- determine the effects of water quality on lake trout reproduction	21	.	8
- assess the importance of various creeks and rivers as spawning and nursery areas for walleye, rainbow trout and brown trout	26	.	3

...2

Determine the success of fish population and habitat rehabilitation actions:	Agree	Disagree	No Comment
In inland waters			
- assess lake trout and walleye spawning areas before and after rehabilitation has occurred	27	.	2
- evaluate the use of various materials in lake trout and walleye spawning bed rehabilitation	26	.	3
- determine the success of splake, walleye and lake trout stocking in key lakes	26	1	2
- determine the importance of using genetically similar lake trout strains for stocking	21	4	4
In Lake Ontario, Bay of Quinte and St. Lawrence River	Agree	Disagree	No Comment
- continue to monitor the status of the lake trout population	21	1	7
- continue to study the impact on the forage fish of stocked trout and salmon, to determine the future stocking rates	22	.	7
Determine angler demand, use and harvest for various sport fisheries:	Agree	Disagree	No Comment
In inland waters			
- encourage volunteer creel census programs	24	2	3
- conduct a rotating creel census program on important lake trout, splake, walleye, northern pike, bass and muskellunge fisheries and on certain coldwater stream fisheries	26	1	2
In Lake Ontario, Bay of Quinte and St. Lawrence River	Agree	Disagree	No Comment
- evaluate the socio-economic benefits provided by the trout and salmon sport fishery	22	.	7
- conduct creel census programs to determine use and harvest of coldwater and warmwater fish species	23	.	6
- conduct a charterboat creel census program	22	.	7
Continue to assess commercial fish species and commercial fisheries in Lake Ontario, Bay of Quinte and St. Lawrence River:	Agree	Disagree	No Comment
- expand the monitoring of the commercial fishery	23	2	4
- continue to refine estimates of the allowable harvest for commercial fish species by assessing commercial fish population trends	22	1	6

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Public Consultation Paper No. 10 April 1988

QUESTIONNAIRE

The following proposals are a wide ranging set of possible actions—your comments will help us select which ones will be included in the draft fisheries plan. Please note that a complete listing is contained in the full background report available at some libraries and MNR offices.

Increase the public's awareness of the benefits that proper allocation of fish to various user groups can have in effective fisheries management and for the local economy, by:	Agree	Disagree	No Comment
- communicating to user groups, advisory committees, sport and commercial fishermen about problems and issues affecting all parties	26	2	-
- promote co-operation among user groups	24	2	2
- hold open public meetings in an effort to resolve issues and potential conflict	23	3	2
- increase understanding between user groups about their operations and business requirements	23	2	3

Enforce regulations firmly and effectively on all users to demonstrate MNR's non-partisan view toward illegal activities by any party.

(see Public Consultation Paper No. 6—Fisheries Enforcement) Fisheries Enforcement)

Reduce incidental catches of non-target species in the gill net fishery

(see Public Consultation Paper No. 14—Incidental Catch).

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QUESTIONNAIRE

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Provide more angling opportunities by creating new fisheries or supplementing existing fisheries, by:	Agree	Disagree	No Comment
- introducing brown trout to certain inland, coldwater lakes	19	5	5
- introducing walleye to certain inland lakes, pending the results of the experimental walleye stocking assessment program	25	1	2
- increasing splake and lake trout stocking in certain inland lakes as artificial fisheries	21	3	5
- implementing rehabilitative stocking of lake trout in the most threatened inland lake trout lakes using genetically-similar lake trout strains	25	3	1
- initiating paired plantings of brown trout and rainbow trout	10	2	7
- continuing paired plantings of lake trout and splake in all splake lakes	20	6	3
- providing anglers with information on how to catch rainbow trout and splake (two species which are presently under-utilized)	22	2	5
- encouraging fishing derbies for rainbow trout	11	15	3
- discontinuing trout stocking in waters where angling use is low or where there are poor returns of stocked fish	17	8	4
- continuing to provide stocking lists to the public	24	3	2
- continuing stocking of brook trout in coldwater streams using wild-strains of brook trout	22	1	6

Institute special regulations on specific waterbodies to improve the quality and diversity of fishing experiences, by:	Agree	Disagree	No Comment
- developing a trophy fishery for brook trout on 3 lakes in Frontenac Park	13	8	8
- establishing a fly-fishing only area on Cold Creek for brown trout and brook trout	10	7	12
- permitting artificial lures only and 38 cm (15 inches) minimum size limit on Cold Creek for brown trout	15	3	11

Develop improved access for anglers, by:	Agree	Disagree	No Comment
- encouraging municipalities, Conservation Authorities and other groups to provide access to certain waterbodies	26	2	1
- developing access easements with private landowners along some lakes and rivers	21	7	1
- promoting private acquisition and development of access points	13	9	7
- MNR acquisition of access on select waterbodies	22	1	6

Improve access by promoting better angler-landowner relations, by:	Agree	Disagree	No Comment
- educating anglers on the need to seek permission prior to crossing private land and on the need to respect private property by issuing news releases and talking to angling groups	27	.	2

Identify areas where access to waterbodies is provided, by:	Agree	Disagree	No Comment
- providing this information in a fishing brochure	27	1	2
- encouraging other agencies to provide this information	21	1	7

...2

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	Agree	Disagree	No Comment
Maintain and protect threatened and recovering fish stocks by ensuring that all allocations do not exceed the annual surplus of fish produced.	26	.	1
Ensure the lake trout rehabilitation program in Lake Ontario is not jeopardized, by:	Agree	Disagree	No Comment
- allocating no lake trout to the commercial fishery	22	4	1
- allocating lake trout to the sport fishery but regulating harvest so rehabilitation is not unduly delayed	24	.	3
Optimize recreational and economic benefits provided by the Bay of Quinte walleye fishery, by:	Agree	Disagree	No Comment
- allocating walleye just to the sport fishery and the native fishery	20	3	4
- providing most of the walleye allocation to the native and sport fisheries plus a small quota to the commercial fishery	5	18	4
Maintain the viability of the existing Lake Ontario commercial fishery, by:	Agree	Disagree	No Comment
- allocating under-utilized coarse and commercial fish species to the commercial fishery	24	1	2
- allocating the fish species presently being commercially harvested, first to the commercial fishery and regulating the harvest by quota management at sustainable quota levels	15	3	7
- increasing the allocation of lake whitefish to the commercial fishery	8	14	5
- providing a small quota of walleye in the Bay of Quinte to the commercial fishery	3	22	2
Maintain the benefits provided by the warmwater sportfish species (northern pike, bass) in Lake Ontario, and the St. Lawrence River, by:	Agree	Disagree	No Comment
- allocating these species to the sport fishery only	25	1	1
Ensure that the smelt-alewife allocation does not jeopardize the stability of the walleye, trout and salmon populations in Lake Ontario, by:	Agree	Disagree	No Comment
- allocating no smelt or alewife to the commercial fishery to maximize the forage available to the walleye, trout and salmon populations	22	2	3
On inland waterbodies, ensure that the sport fisheries are maintained or enhanced as required, by:	Agree	Disagree	No Comment
- allocating all sport fish to the sport fishery	21	3	3
- maintaining the small allocation of coarse fish to the commercial fishery	22	.	5
- attempting to restructure certain fish communities by new commercial allocations of coarse fish and panfish in certain lakes	16	4	7

...2

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QUESTIONNAIRE

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	Agree	Disagree	No Comment
Evaluate the status of commercial fishing on inland waters within the District, by:			
- a monitoring and sampling program of fish caught	26	.	1
- evaluating each fisheries' status with regard to species relative abundance	24	1	2
- evaluating the use of experimental commercial fisheries for their effectiveness and economic viability in waters where coarse fish imbalances have impacted sport fisheries.	23	2	2
Evaluate the incidental catch of non-target species in the small mesh gill net fisheries of Lake Ontario	19	4	4
(see Public Consultation Paper No. 14—Incidental Catch)			
Ensure adequate monitoring of contaminants in fish flesh is conducted through an ongoing test program.	22	.	4
Encourage the commercial food fish harvest of fish species via live capture gear by area and time specific permits:	Agree	Disagree	No Comment
- where public support exists, allow experimental fishing permits to evaluate the feasibility, marketability of food fish and economic forecast for such programs on individual lakes	16	3	8
- evaluate the response of a sport fishery to a coarse fish removal program, eg. issue an experimental fishing permit on an inland lake	21	1	5
Monitor existing commercial fisheries to ensure that quotas are adhered to, and that prohibited species are not sold.	26	5	.
(see Public Consultation Paper No. 6—Fisheries Enforcement)			
Allocate under-utilized species and commercial quota species to the commercial fishing industry in Lake Ontario.	16	5	6
Allocate a production quota of walleye to the commercial fishing industry to be taken with impounding gear only.	10	15	2
Reduce the harvest of yellow perch by commercial fishermen in eastern Lake Ontario, by:	Agree	Disagree	No Comment
- reducing the total commercial fish quota of yellow perch to biologically acceptable levels	24	1	2
- implementing a co-operative MNR/industry/fish buyers self-policing program for the monitoring of undersized perch	17	6	4
- setting a minimum total length of 7½" with a 10% allowance by number for undersized fish, with the bjective of ultimately moving to an 8" size limit	19	1	7
Reduce the commercial fishing quotas on bullheads and eels to levels recommended by the Lake Ontario Fisheries Unit.	14	5	8
Protect the key forage species of Lake Ontario from commercial harvest by prohibiting harvest in trawling and trap net gear.	22	.	5
Encourage baitfish harvests from Lake Ontario and the St. Lawrence River.	7	12	8

...2

Encourage commercial aquaculture projects for baitfish and foodfish, by:	Agree	Disagree	No Comment
- developing workshops to inform an interested public	19	-	8
- promoting the development of culture programs of locally indigenous species for human consumption	18	-	9

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QUESTIONNAIRE

Resolve the incidental catch issue on Lake Ontario by adopting one or more of the following:	Agree	Disagree	No Comment
- ensure close monitoring of existing gill net fisheries and based on the results, apply time and area restrictions on gill netting to ensure future operations minimize incidental catch problems	14	8	6
- encourage conversion from gill nets to live capture gear through cooperative test fishing, liberalized seasons, and quota adjustments	22	3	3
- further reduce the size of the commercial gill net fishery to a level when conversion from gill nets to live capture gear (eg. trap nets, hoop nets) becomes viable	20	5	3
- authorize only live capture gear, hooklines and carp nets with the prohibition of the use of gill nets by a specified date with buy-out/fair compensation of gill net licences	23	.	4
- recognize the incidental catch of walleye, lake trout, northern pike, etc. by making a formal allocation of one or more of these species to the commercial gill net fishery	4	20	4

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Evaluate angling activity and assess the current chinook fishery to determine the need for stocking, by:	Agree	Disagree	No Comment
- conducting a creel census using aerial counts	21	4	3
- continuing with a voluntary charter boat creel diary program directed specifically at the salmonid harvest	26	.	2
Utilize the existing salmonid (trout and salmon) and warmwater fishery without increasing stocking rates:	Agree	Disagree	No Comment
- conduct workshops with interest groups to communicate the existing fishing opportunities	13	10	5
Provide greater angling opportunities by allocating chinook salmon and increasing stocking levels of brown trout	Agree	Disagree	No Comment
- stock chinooks and brown trout in waters off Brighton and Wellington and in Prince Edward Bay	26	5	.
- continue stocking brown trout with additional chinooks in the North Channel	24	3	1
Contribute to the international goal of rehabilitation of lake trout in Lake Ontario, by:	Agree	Disagree	No Comment
- increasing MNR lake trout plantings	17	8	3
- planting yearling trout in nursery habitat rather than spawning grounds	13	2	13
- planting at least two genetically unique strains	13	6	9
- introducing a protected slot limit requiring the release of lake trout caught between 63 and 76 cm (25" - 30")	17	9	2
- continuing to support sea lamprey control	28	.	.
- rationalizing management efforts between U.S. and Canadian agencies	25	.	3

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Public Consultation Paper No. 16 April 1988

NAPANEE DISTRICT
LAKE ONTARIO FISHERIES MANAGEMENT PLAN

QUESTIONNAIRE

Your input is important for the preparation of the fisheries management plan for Lake Ontario.

1. **Please indicate the appropriate category(ies) which apply to you.**

Charter boat operator	4	
Commercial fisherman	.	including OFAH
Other related business	6	(please specify) _____
Boat angler	23	
Shore angler	22	
Club affiliated-angler	9	(club name) _____
Other	3	(please specify) _____

2. **In your opinion, which of the following problems are most critical to the management of the Lake Ontario fishery? Please indicate how severe you believe EACH problem to be on a scale of 1 to 5.**

	Not a Problem 1	2	3	4	Severe Problem 5	N.C.
Habitat protection	1	7	5	8	10	3
Habitat restoration	-	2	5	6	11	4
Contaminants	-	1	1	5	18	3
Forage base limitations	2	4	8	6	3	5
User conflicts	2	4	8	6	5	3
Access (launch, parking, docking)	1	5	6	3	9	3
Species mix (relative # of each species stocked)	4	8	5	3	3	5
Stocking numbers	2	6	5	7	3	5
Stocking locations	9	2	8	1	5	3
Illegal harvest	1	-	2	9	11	4
Lamprey induced fish mortality	-	7	8	5	5	4

3. **How would you rate the coldwater (salmon and trout) sport fishing in Lake Ontario?**

Poor _____ Fair 4 Good 13 Excellent 6 N.C. 5

If you are NOT satisfied with the quality of the coldwater fishery in Lake Ontario, what do you see as the problem(s)?

_____

_____

_____

4. **How would you rate the warmwater (panfish, bass, pike, perch, walleye, bullheads, carp...etc.) sport fishing in Lake Ontario?**

Poor _____ Fair 8 Good 13 Excellent 5 N.C. 2

...2

If you are NOT satisfied with the quality of warmwater fishing in Lake Ontario, what do you see as the problem(s)?

_____

_____

_____

5. Do you currently fish for any coldwater fish species in Lake Ontario (e.g., salmon and trout)?
   Yes 23 No 4
   Please rank the coldwater fish species you would most like to catch in Lake Ontario.
   1. _____ Most Desirable
   2. _____
   3. _____
   4. _____
   5. _____
   6. _____ Least Desirable

6. Do you currently fish for any warmwater fish species in Lake Ontario (e.g., panfish, bass, pike, perch, walleye, bullheads, carp...etc.)?
   Yes 20 No 5 N.C. 2
   Please rank the warmwater fish species you would most like to catch in Lake Ontario.
   1. _____ Most Desirable
   2. _____
   3. _____
   4. _____
   5. _____
   6. _____
   7. _____ Least Desirable

7. Have all the Lake Ontario fisheries problems or issues been addressed in the district plan?
   Yes 12 No 10 N.C. 6
   If NO, please indicate any problem(s) which you feel have not been addressed.

_____

_____

8. Have all viable strategies and tactics been identified in the district plan?
   Yes 25 No 10 N.C. 3
   If NO, please indicate additional solution(s).

Issue: _____

Other Solution(s): _____

_____

_____

_____

...3